



## Compliance and Enforcement Division

# INCIDENT REPORT

**Rhodia Inc (Site #B1661)**  
100 Mococo Road, **Martinez, CA**  
**October 14, 2004**

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On October 14, 2004 at 5:23pm the District received Level 1 emergency notification from Rhodia Inc. in Martinez of a gas release of an unknown chemical from a pipe that was being worked on. This facility is a Sulfuric Acid plant located on the Carquinez Straits in close proximity to Hwy 680.

At 5:42pm the plant upgraded the emergency notification to Level 2 due to the potential for off-site/off-property impact resulting from the gas release and plume that was now identified to be SO<sub>3</sub> (Sulfur Trioxide). They also reported that the situation was now under control.

District Staff arrived at the plant at 6:00 pm. The wind was north 0 – 1 mph and no visible emissions or odors were present. Staff met with the facility contact at 6:21 pm who explained that the plant had been down for maintenance for the last three days and that they were working on a pipe that had been blanked off (isolated) and they thought purged of any product. When the pipe was cut, the pipe was found to still be pressurized with product and SO<sub>3</sub> gas began to escape. The plant utilized water sprays to control the white vapor cloud that formed. The leak was stopped and the plant called the all clear shortly before 6:00 pm. The facility contact said that one contract employee was possibly exposed to the leak and was treated onsite with an emergency water shower.

The District received no complaints in the area during the incident.

Rhodia and District staff continue to investigate the cause of the incident and will determine if the facility violated any District regulations.